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JUNE TRIP TO MT. HAMILTON SPRINGS

Some twelve people camped overnight at Mt. Hamilton Springs on Saturday, June 12; seventeen others joined the group on Sunday. The weather on Saturday was heavy fog to rain, but it was clear and warm on Sunday. The most interesting birds were a pair of Golden Eagles flying about a half-mile from camp, and a Warbling Vireo sitting openly on a dead branch in full song. The following 70 species were recorded as compared with 71 in 1953: Mallard, Am. Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sparrow Hawk, Calif. Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Screech Owl, Horned Owl, Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn (Calif.) Woodpecker, Lewis Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Steller Jay, Scrub (Calif.) Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-tit, Dipper, House Wren, Winter Wren, Bewick Wren, Canyon Wren, Mockingbird, Calif. Thrasher, Robin, W. Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Hutton Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-capped (Pileolated) Warbler, House Sparrow, W. Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock Oriole, Brewer Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple Finch, House Finch, Lesser (Green-backed) Goldfinch, Lawrence Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow.

— PETER A. VEITCH, *Leader and Historian.*

SCREEN TOURS FOR 1954-1955. The following schedule is announced for the coming season: October 26 (Tues.)—William Wagoner, Jr., "Wanderland"; November 30 (Tues.)—Laurel Reynolds, "Garden Sanctuary"; January 7 (Fri.)—Charles Mohr, "Outdoor Almanac"; March 10 (Thurs.)—Fran William Hall, "Siesta Land"; April 11 (Mon.) Olin Sewall Pettingill, "Tip O' The Mitten". The lectures will be held as usual in the Berkeley High School Little Theatre. Admission will be by season ticket only, \$3.50 for the series. Further information will be sent to those on the mailing list.

JUNE 26 TRIP TO STRAWBERRY CANYON AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

A heavy fog and intermittent drizzles did not dampen the ardor of 25 members and friends as they met at the gates of the Botanical Gardens at 9 a.m. DST. As the gates did not open until 9 a.m. ST, the intervening hour was spent exploring the immediate vicinity. Up the road several species of finches were observed feeding on a patch of thistles. A Lazuli Bunting was also seen in the same area in some willows. Several members were so pleased with the fine view of the Bunting that they watched the bird while they were eating their lunches. Close-up views of several Allen Hummers were also obtained. The following 34 species were observed: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Calif. Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Mourning Dove, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, Wren-tit, Robin, Olive-backed (Russet-backed) Thrush, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, House Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am. Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Leader and Historian*.

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome to our membership the following: from San Francisco, Mrs. J. E. Cushing, Kenneth Drybread, Mrs. J. C. Fennilly, Miss Tanya M. Henrich, Louis J. Henrich, Charles Hines, Mrs. Wm. M. Hume, Oliver S. Orrick, Mrs. Harry J. Pruett, Zeb Stewart, Mrs. Malcolm S. M. Watts, Miss Meta Wolff; from Oakland, Mrs. Lolita L. Favares, Mrs. Lillian H. Hickman, Mrs. Violet G. Homen, Mrs. Gertrude C. Rands; from Hayward, Miss Beulah Abbadusky; from Berkeley, James C. Thomas; from Orinda, Dr. Jefferson Larkey; from Richmond, Dr. Wm. L. Thompson; from Oroville, Miss Elizabeth A. Everett, Miss Susan Clark; from Boston, Mass., Mr. C. C. Nash.

AUDUBON CAMP. There are still two sessions of two weeks each at the Audubon Camp of California at Norden: Aug. 8 - 21, and Aug. 22—Sept. 4. Registration is open to anyone interested in nature and conservation, if 18 years of age or older. For reservations and information write to National Audubon Society, 693 Sutter Street—Room 201, San Francisco.

OBSERVATIONS. ROAD-RUNNER, near Inspiration Point, Tilden Park, June 21, Peter A. Veitch.

A EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH visited my backyard sanctuary in the Montclair hills of Oakland on June 15, 1954, at 9a.m. He arrived with two American Goldfinches and was eating weed seeds about eight feet from my window, remaining in full view in bright sunlight for about three minutes. Violet Homen.

According to Grinnell and Miller, *The Distribution of the Birds of California*, page 575, the European Goldfinch was planted near San Francisco in 1891 and probably also in subsequent years. They were noted at Larkspur in 1936 (L. A. Stephens) and in Elk Valley, also in Marin County, in 1937. It is possible that this bird is a descendent from one of these planted birds or may be a recent escape or released bird.

THE 1953 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 1953 Christmas Bird Count was published in the April, 1954, number of Audubon Field Notes. A total of 522 counts was published, 66 more than the previous year. Every state was represented, plus Alaska and five provinces of Canada. The longest list this year was 162 at Wilmington, N.C.; Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Texas was second with 157, the Sabine N.W.R. in Louisiana tied for third with Los Angeles at 153, while St. Marks, Fla., was fifth with 148. Oakland was 13th with 135, while San Francisco with 114 was tied for 31st. There were 45 counts with a total of 100 or better, 15 states being represented, all but Arizona being states bordering salt water. The total number of species reported (excluding a few rarities not substantiated by sufficient details) was 469.

Twenty-seven of the lists were from California, the same number as last year. Twelve of these included 100 or more species, as follows: (1) Los Angeles, 153 (122 observers); (2) Salinas, 140 (6 observers); (3) Oakland, 135; (4) Monterey Peninsula, 130; (5) San Diego, 124; (6) Sacramento, 121 (this was one of the highest counts not adjacent to salt water); (7) San Jose, 115; (8) San Francisco, 114; (9) Orange County, Central and Coastal, 110; (10) Pasadena, 105; (11 and 12) Oceanside-Vista and Red Bluff tied at 103. Other areas reported included the following in Northern California: Fresno, 70; Lodi, 94; Marysville, 57; Suisun Waterfowl Refuge, 95; Yosemite National Park, 50; the second, fourth, and fifth of these areas have been visited by the GGAS on field trips, the Lodi area only last February.

In the Species Numbers in the 1953 Bird Count, the San Francisco count led in 9 species: Eared Grebe, 131; Brandt Cormorant, 2159; Surf-bird, 23; Wandering Tattler, 2; Western Gull, 8471; California Gull, 12,091; Common Murre, 29; Allen Hummingbird, 2; and Fox Sparrow, 203. The Oakland Count led in 8 species: Black-bellied Plover, 500; Willet, 1400; Least Sandpiper, 530; Western Sandpiper, 15,000; Sanderling, 850; Avocet, 2750; Hermit Thrush, 175; and Golden-crowned Sparrow, 580.

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SEA-BIRDS, An Introduction to the Natural History of the Sea-Birds of the North Atlantic, by James Fisher and R. M. Lockley. This book covers the sea-birds of the North Atlantic including both Europe and North America. A majority of the species discussed are found on both sides of the Atlantic, and quite a few are also found in the eastern Pacific, so that this book is of much interest to birders in the United States, including the Pacific Coast, who are interested in sea-birds. Roger Tory Peterson's painting of the Cahow is reproduced as a frontispiece. Of the 68 pictures in black-and-white, 8 are by Peterson and 6 by Allan Cruikshank. Incidentally the book refers to the roosting of Double-crested Cormorants on a power line in San Francisco Bay. For the benefit of those who have not seen this spectacle, the power line runs from Richmond, not far north of Point Isabel, out to the southern tip of Brooks Island.

The Oakland Tribune for Wednesday, June 23, 1954, carried a note to the effect that the Bachman Warbler, one of the rarest of warblers of the United States, was recently discovered at Lorton, Virginia, not far from Washington, D.C.

AUGUST MEETING

The August meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on August 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the San Francisco Public Library in Civic Center. After the usual order of business, Mr. and Mrs. David Stearns, of the Sierra Club and our Society, will show their movie, "Along Western Trails". Mammals, birds, wildflowers, beautiful scenery — all figure in this pleasant film. Come and bring interested friends.

SEPTEMBER ANNUAL GARDEN SUPPER MEETING

Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds have again invited us to hold the September meeting in their lovely garden in Piedmont, following supper. The proceeds from this annual event will be used for giving camperships to the National Audubon Nature Camp. The success of the party depends upon the cooperation of all of the members. Please fill out the enclosed card and return it to the Social Committee chairman, Mrs. Reynolds, NOW.

— MRS. BUDD J. SMITH, *Program Chairman*.

AUGUST TRIP TO DUMBARTON BRIDGE

On Sunday, August 15, at 9 a.m., meet at the KGO radio station on the north side of the eastern approach to Dumbarton Bridge. This is an exceptionally good place to see migrating phalaropes and other shore birds, also Clapper Rails and White Pelicans; there is a nesting colony of Caspian Terns nearby. Leader, Howard L. Cogswell of the Zoology Department of Mills College. Bring binoculars and telescopes, lunch, and interested friends.

AUGUST TRIP TO REDWOOD CANYON

On Saturday, August 28, at 9 a.m., meet at Orchard Picnic Area in Redwood Regional Park. From Oakland drive east on Redwood Road, cross Skyline Boulevard, and turn left on the first surfaced road beyond (Redwood Gate). The walk this year will be upstream into the redwoods where we hope to see brown creepers and winter wrens and probably migrating warblers. Leader, A. Laurence Curl. Bring binoculars, lunch if desired, and interested friends.

— FRANK A. SCOTT, *Chairman, Field Trips Committee*.

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Established January 25, 1917

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Chairman.....L. R. Leinbach.....201 Purdue Ave., Berkeley 8, LA. 6-7649

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$5.00 per year, includes Audubon Magazine. Local Membership only, \$1.50 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 693 Sutter Street, San Francisco 2 — PR. 5-4042